

THE LATE M. PASTEUR.

Why Interment in the Pantheon was Declined by His Family.

The Times Paris correspondent writes:—"Mme. Pasteur—that is to say, the Pasteur family, for they have always been admirably united—refused to allow an interment in the Pantheon, where the Republic has created a Valhalla, and where Carnot already rests by the side of Victor Hugo. The family, however, had several reasons for objecting to the Pantheon. The one which has been assigned is among these, but is not the chief. M. Pasteur, it is true, had an actual love for his institute. He was a man of singular simplicity and frugality. Material considerations never entered his head. Merely by his theory of ferments, which has enriched those brewers throughout the world who first adopted it and exported "Pasteurized" beer, M. Pasteur might have made a large fortune. He did not derive the slightest profit from it, and while those brewers who adopted it were distancing all their competitors, M. Pasteur was carrying on warm controversies against the risks of Nimes University, who combated his system. In the courtyard of a large Stockholm brewery, indebted for its prosperity to his system, there is a statue of M. Pasteur, and his portrait by Bonnat adorns the brewery offices, for the brewer, whom the system had cost nothing, wished at least to testify his admiration and gratitude. To the end of his life M. Pasteur never thought of profit for himself or his family, and when France, proud of having given birth to such a man, voted pensions, modest ones indeed, for him and them, his whole thoughts were absorbed in the expense of his beloved institute. It had been undertaken and carried out with inadequate resources, and he was anxious as to the material and financial burden which he had taken on himself. For his cherished institute he became almost a suppliant. "If England," he said once, "which is so favorable to humanitarian enterprises, would but send me some money, what good it would do me and the world!" Now, in deciding that his remains should rest in a vault of the Pasteur Institute, the family knew they were carrying out his constant and dearest wish. This, however, was not the only reason which prompted the refusal of the Pantheon. M. Pasteur was a Catholic—in fact, a staunch Catholic, as are also all those who are connected with him. The secularizing of St. Genevieve necessarily hurt the convictions of all those whose ideas were in unison with his, and I am convinced that even if he could not have been buried in the Pasteur Institute, they would have preferred a tomb and a monument in the Montmartre Cemetery to the Pantheon. Lastly, the interments in the Pantheon are always in a temporary tomb. In the country, the institutions of which fluctuate according to the voice of the noisy class, who alone are listened to, everything, even the resting-place of the dead, is subject to change.

M. Pasteur has left a will, in which he simply says, "I leave to my wife all that the law permits me to leave her. May my children never neglect the law of duty ever to preserve towards their mother the feeling of tenderness which she deserves."

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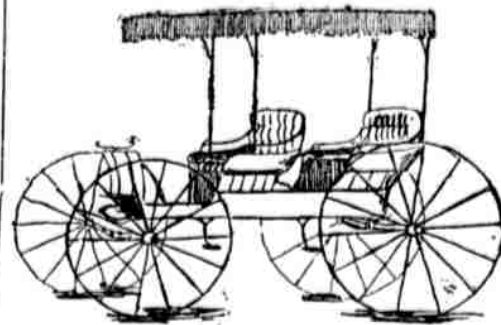
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